

richest vestments; from their lofty places, the bells that had been silent, the while Christ was in his grave, now peal forth their merry chimes and publish like so many voices the Paschal Alleluia. Joy is also impressed everywhere in the liturgy: "This is the day" we read at mass and in the divine Office, "this is the day which the Lord hath made; let us be glad and rejoice therein."

Indeed, Easter is a great feast in the Church; we may even say that it is the greatest of all her feasts; for it is on this day that Christ, her Divine Founder, has shone forth before the world in the full splendor of his divinity, on this day that he has chained death, triumphed over his enemies and claimed from his Father his heritage over all nations. The Christian finds in the celebration of the day the most conclusive proof of the divinity of his faith; to all the objections directed at his belief, he can always point out triumphantly at the Savior rising from his grave; the fact of the Resurrection is the safe anchor on which are moored his convictions, the rock indestructible against which the attacks of infidelity in all ages have crashed and gone to wreck. If Christ is not risen from the dead, then vain is our faith, agrees even St. Paul, seeing with his mighty logic the vulnerability of other arguments, and making his stand on the most convincing of proofs. The Resurrection is the main miracle which our Blessed Lord has also chosen and proposed to the world to demonstrate his divine mission. One day, as He was preaching to the multitudes in the plains of Palestine, some of the Scribes and Pharisees, those men who ever clung to his footsteps, like evil genii, to discredit his doctrine, asked Him: "You claim that you are the Son of God, but what sign do you give of the truth of your assertion." The question was not embarrassing to our Divine Savior. From the very first day of his apostolic life, miracles everywhere sprang forth on his passage and proclaimed the presence of a God; the blind saw, the deaf heard, the lepers were restored to soundness, the paralytics arose from their beds of suffering in singing his praise. Our Lord had but to look around and point out to his contradictors the many persons He had cured and who thankfully accompanied Him.